

to practice the claimed method (see paragraph 5). The Declaration (paragraph 4) also compares the sequence of glucosamine-6-phosphate synthases from several sources to show that: (1) although there is varying sequence homology among glucosamine-6-phosphate synthases in different organisms, the glucosamine-6-phosphate synthases share common structural features, in addition to functional similarity; and (2) glucosamine-6-phosphate synthases having relatively low sequence homology to the *E. coli* GlmS can be successfully used in the present method. In view of the attached Declaration and the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that they are entitled to the scope presently claimed for a method of glucosamine production.

It is noted that this Declaration was not earlier presented, because this issue was raised in the August 21 interview and not in the final Office Action, and because Applicants required some time to complete the experiments presented in the Declaration. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner review and consider this Declaration, since it is believed to address the Examiner's concerns and place the claims in a condition for allowance, or at least in a better form for appeal.

In the event that the Examiner has any further questions regarding the claims, please consider this a provisional request for an Examiner telephone interview with the below-named agent.

Respectfully submitted,

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